

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

S E C R E T USUN 2918

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDEU, RH, US, UK, XG, XT, PFOR

SUBJECT: RHODESIA AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL: SEPTEMBER 8
YOUNG/RICHARD MEETING

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR IVOR RICHARD, ACCOMPANIED BY
AMB JAMES MURRAY, MET WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG, MCNEHRY AND
MAYNES SEPTEMBER 8 TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN ABOUT AN
INSTRUCTION UKUN HAS RECEIVED TO GO TO THE SECURITY
COUNCIL WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14.

2. RICHARD SAID THAT HE REGARDED HIS INSTRUCTION AS "ABSURD"
BOTH FROM THE STANDPOINT OF TIMING AND FROM THE STANDPOINT
OF WHAT LONDON EXPECTED TO RECEIVE FROM THE COUNCIL. HIS
INSTRUCTION SUGGESTED THE COUNCIL ENDORSE THE FULL UK/US
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PLAN. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR THE UK AND THE
US TO SEEK COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT EVEN OF THE LIMITED STEP
OF APPOINTING A RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE UNTIL WE WERE
CERTAIN THAT WE HAD THE COMPLETE SUPPORT OF THE FRONT-
LINE STATES. HE DID NOT BELIEVE WE HAD THAT SUPPORT.

3. AMB YOUNG AGREED THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO BE CERTAIN

OF AFRICAN SUPPORT BEFORE WE WENT TO THE COUNCIL. HE AGREED THAT A MEETING NEXT WEDNESDAY WOULD BE TOO SOON. WE SHOULD USE NEXT WEEK TO ARRANGE A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH KEY AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVES TO EXPLAIN OUR PROPOSALS AND TO SOLICIT THEIR SUPPORT. AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAD TO MOVE FOR COUNCIL ACTION QUICKLY. OTHERWISE, THE MOMENTUM THUS FAR ESTABLISHED WOULD DISAPPEAR. RICHARD AGREED WITH THE NEED TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM. A KEY TO "DELIVERING" SMITH, BOTH AGREED, WAS GETTING THE CEASEFIRE NEGOTIATIONS STARTED.

4. IN TERMS OF ACTION BY THE COUNCIL RICHARD EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH THE PRESENTATION JOHNNY GRAHAM HAD MADE BEFORE THE EC-9. IN HIS REPORT, GRAHAM HAD STATED THAT IF WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WE DID NOT HAVE A CLEAR INDICATION FROM SMITH ABOUT HIS REACTION TO OUR PROPOSALS, THEN WE SHOULD STIMULATE A RESPONSE, WHICH PRESUMABLY WOULD BE NEGATIVE. RICHARD ARGUED AND YOUNG AGREED THAT IF IT WAS CLEAR BY THE TIME OF SECURITY COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS THAT SMITH HAD REJECTED THE PROPOSALS, THEN AFRICAN DEMANDS THAT WE DELIVER SMITH WOULD MOVE EVEN MORE TO THE FRONT AND CENTER OF DEBATE. THIS WAS TO OUR DISADVANTAGE. CONSEQUENTLY, WE SHOULD NOT PRESS SMITH FOR A FINAL ANSWER.

5. RICHARD NOTED THAT OWEN THOUGHT A NIGERIAN SHOULD COMMAND THE UN FORCE IN RHODESIA. HE BELIEVED THIS WRONG BE-
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CAUSE OF THE LIKELY IMPACT ON THE WHITE POPULATION. HE URGED A THIRD WORLD GENERAL WITH EXPERIENCE IN EARLIER UN PEACE KEEPING OPERATIONS, I.E., SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE PERCEIVED AS A MORE IMPARTIAL, INTERNATIONALLY MINDED GENERAL. AMB YOUNG COMMENTED THAT WHILE HE COULD SEE SOME ADVANTAGES IN SELECTING A NIGERIAN TO HEAD THE UN FORCE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF GAINING AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR OUR INITIATIVE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, HE HAD DIFFICULTY COMING UP WITH NAMES OF NIGERIANS WITH SUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE TO IMAGINE THEIR DOING AN EFFECTIVE JOB AS THE COMMANDER OF THE UN FORCE. MOST OF THE LEADERS OF NIGERIA WERE UNDER 40 AND WOULD NOT COMMAND THE KIND OF RESPECT NECESSARY. REGARDING A CIVILIAN UN REPRESENTATIVE, YOUNG ASKED FOR BRITISH VIEWS ON SRIDATH REMPHAL, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH. RICHARD COMMENTED THAT HE MIGHT BE A SUITABLE CANDIDATE FOR THE CIVILIAN UN JOB.

6. COMMENT: UNLESS DEPARTMENT SEES OBJECTION, IN THE COMING TEN DAYS, USUN WILL ORGANIZE A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH KEY AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTLINE OUR PROPOSALS REGARDING RHODESIA AND TO SEEK THEIR SUPPORT. ON THE BASIS OF THESE CONSULTATIONS AND FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BRITISH, WE

WILL PROCEED TO SET A FORMAL DATE FOR A SECURITY COUNCIL
MEETING. USUN ALSO BELIEVES THAT IT SHOULD RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS
SOONEST TO DISCUSS THE RHODESIAN PACKAGE WITH SOVIET
AMBADDADOR TROYANOVSKY. END COMMENT.

YOUNG

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